



SPIRITUAL HEALING AND EXORCISM: MUSIC AS A CATALYST IN SACRED SPACE

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ABSTRACT

The focus of this paper is to explore the possibility of music and its causality in spiritual healing, and exorcism in the Pentecostal Church within the African Diaspora. The term “spiritual healing” as opposed to just “healing” is used to indicate 1) an event that would occur in the realm of the miraculous or supernatural; and 2) an event that should not be misconstrued as the result or process of Music Therapy, as some have perceived or concluded David’s musical encounter with King Saul to have been (1 Samuel 16:23). Biblically, there is no evidence of music being incorporated into the ministry of spiritual healing or exorcism of Jesus or the Apostles, yet music has become an integral component in Pentecostal churches throughout the African Diaspora (Continental Africa, North America, Brazil, United Kingdom, Caribbean and Virgin Islands). Music for spiritual healing also is also prevalent in many communities that are not contained or confined in churches. This is evident in the countries of Haiti, Mali, and USA. This paper will endeavor to answer the following questions: Does a particular genre or style of music have a greater impact in the sacred space than others? Is there a particular spiritual position or comprehension that musicians and singers should occupy or obtain to achieve the desired outcomes? Does the cultural or worship community have an influence on the musical expression, e.g., instruments, lyrical content, language?

Does meter, tempo, key, or pitch affect the outcomes? Does the “patient” have to be a Christian? Is there a preparation and treatment for the instruments used in the rituals or ceremonies? What is the training or conditioning process for the musician(s)? Conclusion: The transporting of sicknesses associated with spiritual oppression, spiritual possession, physical ailments, psychological/mental distress, or biological toxins from a human can be facilitated through or assisted by music, with certain exceptions and stipulations. **Keywords** Spiritual

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